

REMARKS

I. General

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 3, 4-6, 12 and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Applicant hereby traverses the rejections and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal in light of the remarks and amendments contained herein.

II. Amendments to the Specification

Paragraph [0018] of the Specification has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error. The amendments are made for the sole purpose of correcting the error. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

III. Amendments to the Claims

Dependent claims 4, 5, 13, 14, and 15 have been amended for purely lexicographical purposes. Support for these amendments can be found, at least, in FIGURES 3-5 and in paragraphs [0017]-[0022] of the application, as filed. The figures and Specification use the phraseology of *selector* and *selecting*, therefore the claims have been amended solely to reflect that usage. These amendments are made for the sole purpose of reconciling the claim language with the language used in the Specification and Applicant does not intend that such amendments limit or narrow the scope of the claims. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

IV. Objections to the Drawings

The drawings have been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). The rule states:

The drawing in a nonprovisional application must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. However, conventional features disclosed in the description and claims, where their detailed illustration is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention, should be illustrated in the drawing in the form of a graphical drawing symbol or a labeled representation (e.g., a labeled rectangular box).

37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a).

Although Applicant maintains that the drawings sufficiently disclose the original claims as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) and the M.P.E.P., the claims have been amended to better reflect the phraseology used in the Specification and drawings. Based on the amendments to the claims, Applicant believes that the Examiner's objection to the drawings is now moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this objection.

V. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 3, 4-6, 12 and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention.

With respect to claims 3 and 12, the Office Action states that the limitation "said connection interface is disposed within said electronic load" is unclear as the load is shown and described in the drawings and Specification as a separate component. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The Specification contemplates all possible dispositive arrangements of the elements of the claimed system. FIGURE 5, step 501 states "interface the plurality of power supplies with the electronic load through an isolation interface." This step does not limit the interface to being a separate component. Thus, the original claim language is fully supported by the drawings. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this rejection.

With respect to claims 4-6 and 13-15 the Office Action states that the limitations: "a latching component" and "a latching circuit" are not clearly defined in the Specification or clearly seen in the drawings. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for pointing out the inconsistency of the language used in the claim and the language used in the Specification. Applicant has amended the claims to better reflect the phraseology of the Specification and the drawings. The terms *selector* and *selecting* have replaced *latch* and *latching* in the claims because the Specification does not limit the claims only to a selector containing a latch, but rather the Specification discloses other embodiments contemplated for a selector. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this rejection.

VI. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2143. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Without conceding the second criteria, Applicant respectfully asserts that the references lack proper motivation to combine in addition to lacking all the claim limitations.

Claims 1, 4, 7-8, 10, and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henze (U.S. Pat. No. 4,924,170) in view of Chesavage (U.S. Pat. No. 5,834,925). This rejection is improper for at least the reason that Henze and Chesavage actually teach away from the proposed combination. “A prior art reference must be considered in its entirety, i.e., as a whole, including portions that would lead away from the claimed invention.” *See* M.P.E.P. § 2141.02 (citing *W.L. Gore & Assoc., Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540 (Fed. Cir. 1983)). Chesavage states:

The improvement in current sharing over output voltage offset between power supplies with parallel-connected outputs is roughly 10 times better than the droop sharing configuration and has no increased circuit complexity when compared to competing schemes such as 3-wire control, or local control, which require substantially more components, many of which interfere with the premise of independent operation of units implicit in the reliability calculations.

Col. 3, Lines 4-6.

The Office Action proposes to modify Henze to include the use of an isolation diode, but Chesavage actually teaches away from this, instead requiring a resistor connected in a feedback loop. This and other statements actually teach away from the complex circuitry disclosed in Henze. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the claims are patentable over the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of record.

Claims 2 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henze in view of Chesavage and further in view of Wasaki (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0095036).

The Office Action points out that Henze, as modified by Chesavage, is silent on selection impedance within the connection interface for setting the maximum effective output voltage for each of the plurality of cascading power units. The Office Action then looks to Wasaki as teaching the use of impedance matching circuits. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the proposed combination.

The references are non-analogous art. While all of the references cited relate to electronics in general, AC power systems and DC power systems require different components to create similar outcomes, and different outcomes will result from the use of similar components making the two fields non-analogous. *See Wang Labs., Inc. v. Toshiba Corp.*, 993 F.2d 858 (Fed. Cir. 1993) (finding that a reference to a SIMM in a PC was not in the same field of endeavor as a reference to a SIMM for an industrial controller because it involved memory circuits in which modules of varying sizes may be added or replaced, whereas the claimed invention involved compact modular memories). Wasaki relates to power line communication systems for performing communication between a plurality of devices by using a power line as a signal transmission signal, and to a power line branching apparatus for use in this power line communication system. Power lines, generally, and Wasaki, specifically, deal with AC power. For example, the impedance matching circuit disclosed in Wasaki uses a capacitor connected in series with a resistor whose characteristics are dependent on the frequency of the AC power source. *See Wasaki*, Figures 9 and 10. This modification is improper because using a capacitor in a DC power system would result in an open circuit, rendering the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. *See In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Therefore, the combination proposed in the Office Action is improper, at least, because one skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine Wasaki with Henze, as modified by Chesavage, at least because they are non-analogous art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 6 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henze in view of Chesavage and in further view of Rock (U.S. Pat. No. 5,834,925). Claims 6 and 15 depend from respective independent claims 1 and 12 and, thus, inherit all the limitations of those base independent claims. As noted above, the combination of Henze and

Chesavage is improper as the references actually teach away from the proposed combination. Thus, combining Rock with either one of Henze or Chesavage does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that claims 6 and 15 are patentable at least based on their dependence from claims 1 and 12. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this rejection.

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 200300353-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV568257860US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

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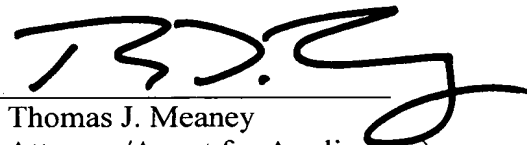
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Respectfully submitted,

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